

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OPIC-06 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /031 W

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R 222112Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 251

UNCLAS CARACAS 9899

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EFIN, ETRN, VE

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS INVESTMENT PROGRAM

1. THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS ANNOUNCED FIVE BILLS TO REQUEST PUBLIC CREDITS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF BS. 10,360 MILLION TO BE SPENT DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ON SPECIAL PROJECTS.

2. BY CATEGORY:

A. ENLARGEMENT OF PORT OF LA GUAIRA: BS. 445 MILLION TO CONTRUCT NINE NEW QUAYS, SHEDS, GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES AND AN INTERNAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM, TO INCREASE ANNUAL CARGO CAPACITY TO 4.4 MILLION TONS.

B. ENLARGEMENT OF PORT OF PUERTO CABELLO: BS. 445 MILLION, SHEDS, GRAIN AND CHEMICALS STORAGE AND CONTAINER FACILITIES, TO INCREASE ANNUAL CARGO CAPACITY TO 2.3 MILLION TONS.

C. IMPROVEMENT OF PORT OF MARACAIBO: BS. 45 MILLION, FOR HARBOR DREDGING AND TO BUILD A 22,000 TON CAPACITY GRAIN SILO.

D. PARAGUANA FREE ZONE: BS. 68 MILLION, FOR PORT TERMINAL, OFFICE BUILDING AND INDUSTRIAL PARTK.

E. PORT PROJECTS, STUDIES AND CONSTRUCTION: BS. 150 MILLION FOR (1) QUAY AT MAMO, (2) AN ALTERNATE PORT TO LA GUAIRA, AND (3) A PORT AT CIUDAD GUAYANA.

F. ROADS AND HIGHWAYS FOR A TOTAL OF BS. 3,581 MILLION.

G. AIRPORT OF MAIQUETIA: BS. 503 MILLION FOR NEW TERMINAL AND CARGO FACILITIES AND NAVIGATIONAL AIDS.

H. CARACAS SUBWAY: BS. 2 BILLION.

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3. FUTURE EXPORT POSSIBILITIES EXIST FOR PORT EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS

HANDLING EQUIPMENT, GRAIN SILO EQUIPMENT AND AIRPORT EQUIPMENT. THE MAIQUETIA PROJECT IS WELL ADVANCED, HOWEVER, AND MOST LONG-TERM ITEMS HAVE EITHER BEEN BID OR BIDDING IS UNDERWAY. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT ON EACH INDIVIDUAL TENDER OR PURCHASE OPPORTUNITY AS IT OCCURS, PROVIDED CONGRESS AUTHORIZES THE EXPENDITURES. THE CIVIL WORKS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EXECUTED BY DOMESTIC COMPANIES BUT THIS LARGE PROGRAM WILL PROBABLY CAUSE AN INCREASE IN IMPORT OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OF ALL TYPES. IF THE MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS DECIDES TO OPEN BIDDING FOR THE PORT INSTALLATIONS AS ONE LARGE PROJECT FOR EACH PORT, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT FOREIGN ENGINEERING COMPANIES WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS DECIDED TO PROCEED SLOWLY, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT FOREIGN ENGINEERING AND DESIGN FIRM PARTICIPATION WILL BE ALLOWED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, INVESTMENT PROGRAMS, PORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CARACA09899  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750328-0796  
**From:** CARACAS  
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**Line Count:** 76  
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**Office:** ACTION COME  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 MAR 2003 by maustmc>; APPROVED <09 FEB 2004 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS INVESTMENT PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** BEXP, EFIN, ETRN, EWWT, EINV, PGOV, VE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006